

CLAIMS:

1 through 8: (canceled)

9. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller for an active feed paintball loader, the loader having a housing for storing paintballs, a bottom well in the housing with a paintball outlet, and a motor-driven shaft projecting upwardly into the well; wherein the impeller comprises a hub adapted to be mounted on and rotate with the shaft in the well, and a plurality of resilient arms extending outwardly from the hub and accommodating paintballs therebetween, and wherein the hub has an upper portion from which the arms extend, and a separate lower hub extension adapted to be mounted on the shaft, the upper portion and the lower hub extension being configured to mate with each other and not rotate relative to one another.

10. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 9, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.

11. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 10, wherein the first material is neoprene.

12. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 9, wherein the arms are substantially straight.

13. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 12, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.

14. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 13, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.

15. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 14, wherein the first material is neoprene.

16. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 9, wherein one of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has projections, and the other of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has recesses that mate with the projections.

17. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 16, wherein the projections comprise splines.

18. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 17, wherein the splines are on the hub extension, and the recesses are on the upper portion of the hub.

19. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 18, wherein the projections further comprise a circumferential flange on the hub extension, and the recesses comprise a circumferential groove on the upper portion of the hub that mates with the circumferential flange.

20. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 19, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.

21. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 20, wherein the first material is neoprene.

22. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 21, wherein the arms are substantially straight.

23. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 22, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.

24. (original): An active feed paintball loader comprising a housing for storing paintballs, a bottom well in the housing with a paintball outlet, a rotatable shaft projecting upwardly into the well, a motor for driving the shaft, and an impeller in the well mounted on and rotatable with the shaft for moving paintballs toward the outlet, wherein the impeller comprises:

a hub mounted on and rotatable with the shaft; and

a plurality of resilient arms extending outwardly from the hub and accommodating paintballs therebetween.

25. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 24, wherein the arms are substantially straight.

26. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 25, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.

27. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 26, wherein the impeller is made of neoprene.

28. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 27, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

29. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 26, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

30. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 24, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

31. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 30, wherein the impeller is made of neoprene.

32. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 24, wherein the hub has an upper portion from which the arms extend, and a separate lower hub extension adapted to be mounted on the shaft, the upper portion and the lower hub extension being configured to mate with each other and not rotate relative to one another.

33. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 32, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.

34. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 33, wherein the first material is neoprene.

35. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 32, wherein the arms are substantially straight.
36. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 35, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.
37. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 36, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.
38. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 37, wherein the first material is neoprene.
39. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 32, wherein one of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has projections, and the other of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has recesses that mate with the projections.
40. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 39, wherein the projections comprise splines.
41. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 40, wherein the splines are on the hub extension, and the recesses are on the upper portion of the hub.
42. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 41, wherein the projections further comprise a circumferential flange on the hub extension, and the recesses comprise a circumferential groove on the upper portion of the hub that mates with the circumferential flange.
43. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 42, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.
44. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 43, wherein the first material is neoprene.

45. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 44, wherein the arms are substantially straight.

46. (original): An active feed paintball loader according to claim 45, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.

47. (currently amended): An impeller comprising:

a hub; and

a plurality of resilient arms extending outwardly from the hub,

wherein the impeller is configured for placement in an active feed paintball loader, the loader having a housing for storing paintballs, a bottom well in the housing with a paintball outlet through which the impeller pushes paintballs, and a motor-driven shaft projecting upwardly into the well, [[and]]

wherein the hub is configured to be mounted on and rotate with the shaft in the well, and the arms are sized to fit within the well and are spaced to accommodate paintballs therebetween, and

wherein the hub has an upper portion from which the arms extend, and a separate lower hub extension adapted to be mounted on the shaft, the upper portion and the lower hub extension being configured to mate with each other and not rotate relative to one another.

48. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 47, wherein the arms are substantially straight.

49. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 48, wherein the arms project substantially radially from the hub.

50. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 49, wherein the impeller is made of neoprene.

51. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 50, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

52. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 49, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

53. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 47, wherein the hub and the arms are integrally molded.

54. (previously presented): An impeller according to claim 53, wherein the impeller is made of neoprene.

55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim ~~[[55]]~~ 47, wherein the upper portion of the hub and the arms are integrally formed of a first material, and the hub extension is formed of a second material that is more rigid than the first material.

57. (previously presented): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 56, wherein the first material is neoprene.

58. (previously presented): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 55, wherein one of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has projections, and the other of the upper portion of the hub and the hub extension has recesses that mate with the projections.

59. (previously presented): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 58, wherein the projections comprise splines.

60. (previously presented): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 59, wherein the splines are on the hub extension, and the recesses are on the upper portion of the hub.

61. (previously presented): ~~A two-piece impeller~~ An impeller according to claim 60, wherein the projections further comprise a circumferential flange on the hub extension, and the recesses comprise a circumferential groove on the upper portion of the hub that mates with the circumferential flange.